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Selected news items primarily on
the Sino-Soviet Bloc from latest
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Foreign Press Bulletin is a daily publication of the Foreign Documents Division giving press items of current interest which, to our knowledge, have not been reported by other media. The items are grouped by subject category.

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ECONOMIC

SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS FOR TANKERS -- Athens, Naftika Khronika, 1 Sep 60

CPYRGHT The USSR is reported to be negotiating for the purchase of the Liberian tanker FRATERNITY which is nearing completion at the Rieka shipyards in Yugoslavia. Also, considerable progress has reportedly been made in Soviet negotiations with Japanese shipyards for the construction of medium tankers. However, the Japanese government has shown considerable hesitancy about granting the requested loan as well as about the construction of tankers for the USSR.

TEAMS TO PROTECT AUTUMN HARVEST -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 19 Aug 60, p 4

CPYRGHT Tibetan peasants are adopting measures to protect the first oat and wheat harvest after the democratic reform. In Lhasa, Shan-nan, Jih-ko-tse, Chang-tu, etc., Tibet's principal agricultural production areas, the masses have been organized to work together to protect the autumn harvest. Many cadres have gone down to the first lines of production to participate in the actual work and also to furnish the necessary leadership for this undertaking.

FRUIT AND POTATO STORAGE -- Berlin, Der Morgen, 9 Aug 60, p 8

CPYRGHT Deliveries of fruits and potatoes to the East Berlin Wholesale Trade Association (GHG) for Fruits, Vegetables, and Potatoes have reached such volume that the association now has to store these commodities.

[Comment: The Magdeburg Volkstimme of 5 July 1960 reported that ration tickets for potatoes would be issued in the Magdeburg-Sued and Magdeburg-Mitte City Districts on 8 July. See Foreign Press Bulletin for 29 July 1960.]

- 1 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

CURRENT AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN EASTERN EUROPE

The following is an FDD comment.

Grain cutting in East Germany was almost completed by the late August deadline and hauling in of the grain was about five sixths finished despite cloudbursts during the last August week end; Bauern-Echo reports.

Poland's grain harvest was finished except for the northernmost wojewodztwos and some parts of the southern ones by the end of the third week in August. However, much of the grain must still be hauled off the fields, especially in the north, according to the Polish press.

In Czechoslovakia, mid-August sources complain that the harvest progress is not satisfactory. "Intermittent and recurring showers followed by cloudy, sunless days" are said to have delayed the work. The lag in the harvest will delay sowing of rape seed and ensiling of corn. However, it is reported that the corn harvest will be "truly rich."

Hungary reports a good grain harvest on its state farms. Almost all of them had completed grain threshing by the end of the third week of August.

Bulgarian sources report that only one eighth of the ensilage corn had been ensiled and that only somewhat more than one third of the tobacco harvest plan had been fulfilled by mid-August.

SOCIOLOGICAL

ACQUIRES PRINTING PRESS IN EAST GERMANY -- Caracas, Tribuna Popular, 30 Aug 60

Senator Jesus Faria, secretary-general of the Communist Party of Venezuela, returned to Venezuela on 29 August 1960 after a trip to East Germany, where he arranged the final details for the acquisition of a printing press for the Cantacaro Publishing House in Venezuela. While in East Germany, he visited Berlin, as well as Leipzig, where he discussed scholarships for some 12 Venezuelan youths.

[Comment: Tribuna Popular is the organ of the Communist Party of Venezuela.]

FIRST SOVIET MONORAIL -- Moscow, Leninskoye Znamya, 10 Jul 60

CPYRGHT A monorail connecting Moscow with its suburbs will be built in Podmoskov'ye. The first section of the monorail will connect Moscow with the Klyaz'minskiy Reservoir where a recreation area is being developed for Moscow residents. The monorail cars will be able to travel at a speed of 100-150 kilometers per hour and will be made of plastic and special aluminum alloy. The cars will look like subway cars. [Source contains sketch of a type of monorail.]

SECOND TELEVISION SCHEDULE -- Berlin, Funk und Fernsehen, 21-27 Aug 60, p 16

CPYRGHT The GDR has completed preparations for a second television broadcast schedule and will soon transmit the Deutschland-Fernsehen programs.

MILITARY

CPYRGHT NAVAL PROMOTION -- Sofia, Narodna Armiya, 14 Aug 60

The Presidium of the Bulgarian National Assembly has published a decree promoting Kapitan I Rang Ivan Dobrev Stoyanov to vitseadmiral.

[Comment: So far as is known to FDD, Vitseadmiral Branimir Ormanov, Commander of the Bulgarian Navy, is the only other holder of this rank.]

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